

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

Summary of Amendments

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-55 are cancelled and claims 56-110 are added, whereby claims 56-110 will be pending, with claim 56 being the only independent claim.

Support for the new claims can be found throughout the present specification (see, e.g., the Examples thereof) and the cancelled claims.

Applicants point out that the cancellation of claims 1-55 is without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Summary of Final Office Action

Claims 1, 2 and 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Harding et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,705,144 (hereafter "HARDING") in view of Schonrock et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,296,857 (hereafter "SCHONROCK").

Response to Office Action

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action are respectfully requested, in view of the foregoing amendments.

Additionally, the arguments set forth in the Appeal Brief filed December 8, 2008 and the Reply Brief filed May 5, 2009 are referred to. The corresponding remarks are expressly incorporated herein.

Applicants are unable to see that any of the documents relied upon by the Examiner teaches or suggests the (combination of) elements recited in the claims submitted herewith.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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/Heribert F. Muensterer/

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